

# ARCHBISHOP BLANCH SCHOOL



Archbishop Blanch  
SCHOOL

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

DATE WRITTEN:

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WRITTEN BY:

Head of RE

DATE FIRST RATIFIED BY GOVERNORS:

November 2023

(Reviewed every 18 months)

DATE FOR NEXT REVIEW

June 2025

# ARCHBISHOP BLANCH CE HIGH SCHOOL

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

This policy should be taken and used as part of Archbishop Blanch Church of England School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our Mission Statement and Instrument of Government aims.

As a Church of England School, we accept and respect all members of our community as unique children of God, precious in His sight and of infinite worth.

We aim to "not to love in word or talk, but in deed and in truth." (1 John 3:18) our scripture text is at the heart of all we do. This verse from scripture links directly to our understanding of the importance of our commitment to nurturing pupils in their knowledge and understanding of the role of faith in their lives and the lives of others.

The aim is also to help children mature in relation to their own patterns of belief and behaviour through exploring religious beliefs and practices and related human experiences.

All human beings are involved in acquiring and developing attitudes and behaviour patterns, having beliefs and acting on them is one of the most important features of the human species. The role of Religious Education includes the exploration of ways Religious beliefs promote courageous advocacy and a concern for others. The role of Religious Education within Archbishop Blanch, however, is one of education, not promotion of a particular religious tradition.

Religious Education staff develop an open, critical and compassionate approach to the subject. Religious Education lessons are not seen as an opportunity to instruct in a particular faith yet to embrace the traditions of all World Faiths.

The Religious Education department has a crucial contribution to make to the ethos of the school. The aim is for teaching and learning to take place in an atmosphere where all are valued, safe and able to contribute; where there are sound relationships between staff and students; where there is respect and dignity for all in an ordered and calm environment; where challenge and standards are high.

Religious Education makes a significant contribution to multicultural education. It is a stated aim of Archbishop Blanch to encourage all students to acquire knowledge, understanding, and respect for the people and customs of cultures other than their own. We live in a culturally diverse society; the makeup of our school community reflects this. The Religious Education department openly encourages awareness and respect for all beliefs and ways of life.

At Archbishop Blanch Church of England High School, Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Diocese programme of Study for KS3 Illuminating Pathways and the DBE Services Framework for Religious Education in High Schools and Academies 2022. These documents reflect the distinctive and inclusive ethos of our Anglican foundation. The purpose of Religious Education is to enable students to engage with an academic and rigorous programme of study. It enables them to develop knowledge and understanding of religion and belief and to analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence. Assessment is based on the two attainments targets: Learning about Religion and Learning from Religion. All students sit a Religious Education GCSE examination at the end of year 11. GCSE students follow the AQA Full Course Specification A, which includes a study of the beliefs and teaching of Christianity and Islam, alongside study of the ethics and philosophy of these religions, in relation to current world affairs. At A-Level students follow Eduqas Full Course Specification studying Christianity, Philosophy and Ethics sitting all three exams at the end of Year 13. In addition to this all students follow an ethics programme throughout Years 12 and 13.

Governors acknowledge the rights of parents to withdraw their child(ren) from Religious Education lessons and acts of worship. At Archbishop Blanch we would hope that any concerns would be raised and discussed making such a move unnecessary. Given that this is a Christian school, it is entirely appropriate that our worship rests heavily on the traditions of Christianity but the emphasis in the design is that all should feel welcome and able to participate and none should feel the need to withdraw. It is extremely important to us that all members feel valued members of our school community.